June 1987

Railway Age

...for the new age of railways

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THE ARCHITECTS OF CHANGE

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"We have to get some of the traffic that is now moving by non-rail modes. Buy, or coordinate—we can move in both directions."

NJ Transit: Equipping a modern-day shop

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"Buy, or coordinate—we can move in both directions," says Norfolk Southern's new chief as he describes NS's planned progression from a railroad company to a total distribution and transportation system.

35 Is concrete's day dawning?

BN's commitment to a multi-year concrete tie program, and a major test installation on UP, are signs that the wood tie may face a challenge to its long-time supremacy.

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Moving swiftly into a new era of advanced train controls are BN with its satellite-positioning system and UP and other railroads with transponder-based sytems.

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Two experts warn against "excessive reliance on traffic estimates or revenue commitments" from existing shippers. It could be, they say, "a blueprint for failure."

55 A showcase shop takes shape at Kearny

The new, $120-million Meadows Facility of NJ Transit Rail Operations is designed with an eye on the future—for example, a switch from dc to ac traction.

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60 Atlantic City bets on rail

NJ Transit, Amtrak and Atlantic County are spending $101 million to restore passenger service to an old resort city that has become the gambling capital of the East.

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Market Outlook

Equipment

GSI Engineering/Buckeye: Will supply trucks for 30 commuter cars that Bombardier will build for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, and for 40 cars that Bombardier is supplying to the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority. An order was received earlier for trucks for 67 cars being built for MBTA by Messerschmitt-Bolkow-Blohm. Buckeye manufactures the trucks to the GSI Engineering design.

NJ Transit Rail Operations: Ordered an additional 13 Comet II cars from Bombardier, bringing total orders to 23. The new order, which will cost in excess of $10 million, will add 1,700 seats to trains in the Northeast Corridor and on the North Jersey Coast Line and Morris and Essex lines, all of which are experiencing ridership increases. Delivery is to be completed about a year from now.

Pullman Leasing: Placed an order with Trinity Industries for 100 5,850-cubic-foot-capacity covered hopper cars for plastic service.

Santa Fe: Will repair 600 jumbo covered hopper cars at its Cleburne, Tex., shops. Production will average 15 cars per week and will be completed by the end of 1987, at a cost of approximately $2.5 million. Santa Fe expects that the program will add 12 years to the useful life of the cars. J.R. Fitzgerald, vice president-operations, said the program is designed "to enhance our supply of high-quality cars for grain shippers."

Facilities

BC Rail: Will install a basic computer-aided train control system based on Level 10 parameters of the Advanced Train Control System program. Train-end engine crews will not be significantly affected but dispatchers will be; paperwork will be greatly reduced since all orders and authorities will be stored electronically and the train sheet will be displayed on a screen.

CSX Rail Transport: Awarded a $9-million contract to the Union Switch & Signal Division of American Standard for consolidation of all train dispatching operations into a new ctc center at Jacksonville, Fla.

Los Angeles County Transportation Commission: Awarded a contract valued at $13.642 million to a joint venture of Case International Co. and J.H. Pomeroy & Co. for the supply of 231,000 concrete crossties for the Los Angeles-Long Beach light rail line. The ties will be manufactured at J.H. Pomeroy's facility in Petaluma, Calif., and delivered to the jobsite by Southern Pacific.

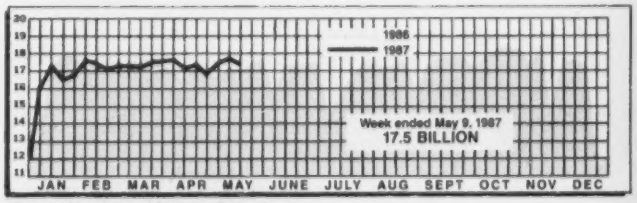
Revenue freight carloadings

Commodity	May 9 week	May 2 week	April 25 week	April 18 week
Grain	24,340	24,129	25,479	24,228
Other farm products	3,785	3,830	3,602	3,659
Metallic ores	17,935	16,925	14,890	18,222
Coal	106,377	109,519	104,550	105,075
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,708	16,050	15,343	14,244
Nonmetallic minerals	10,664	10,088	10,144	8,665
Grain mill products	10,909	10,861	10,523	10,377
Food and kindred products	10,932	11,158	10,998	10,221
Primary forest products	11,147	10,982	11,027	10,070
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,239	8,906	8,655	8,139
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,478	12,777	12,640	12,355
Chemicals and allied products	26,103	28,041	28,103	25,661
Petroleum products	4,780	4,703	4,972	4,298
Stone, clay and glass products	11,073	11,274	10,918	10,145
Coke	5,083	5,194	5,169	4,765
Metals and products	8,980	10,038	9,024	8,540
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,718	21,004	18,865	17,419
Waste and scrap materials	8,165	8,632	8,106	7,670
Forwarder and shipper assn. traffic	2,793	2,732	2,551	2,542
All other carloads	75,136	75,503	71,399	71,151
LCL traffic	114	97	81	83
Total Cars Loaded	**402,443**	**402,443**	**387,277**	**377,529**
% change from previous year	4.5	4.5	0.5	(2.9)
Estimated revenue ton-miles (billions)	17.5	17.8	17.3	16.7
% change from previous year	7.2	7.9	3.9	0.5

Total:	1987	1986	% change
19 weeks	320.7	318.0	0.8

Rail freight traffic trends

Billion ton-miles (Estimated)



Source: Association of American Railroads

Piggyback loadings

	May 2 week	April 25 week	April 18 week	April 11 week
Trailers/containers	97,670	96,304	95,669	96,260

Cumulative total, 18 weeks		% change from 1986
Trailers/containers	1,719,892	2.8

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority: Awarded a $12-million construction management contract to Philadelphia Transit Consultants (PTC), for reconstruction of the 65-year-old Frankford Elevated Railway. The work, which will begin this summer, will include 5.25 miles of double tracked lines, one terminal, and ten stations. PTC is a joint venture of Parsons Brinckerhoff Construction Services and Sverdrup Corp.